

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan Update



Parks Advisory Board Work Session March 27, 2015 Trail System Assessment

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County-wide Trails

Wide variety of trails managed by many entities

Fragmented system contains many gaps

Connectivity adds function/use

Crosses many boundaries

Serves all ages

Recreation and transportation



Trail System Assessment



Adopted Plans

- 1992 Clark County Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan
- 2006 Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan
- 2007 VCPRD Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan
- 2010 Clark County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

No Adopted Standard

(former NRPA standard = 1 mile / 1,000 people)

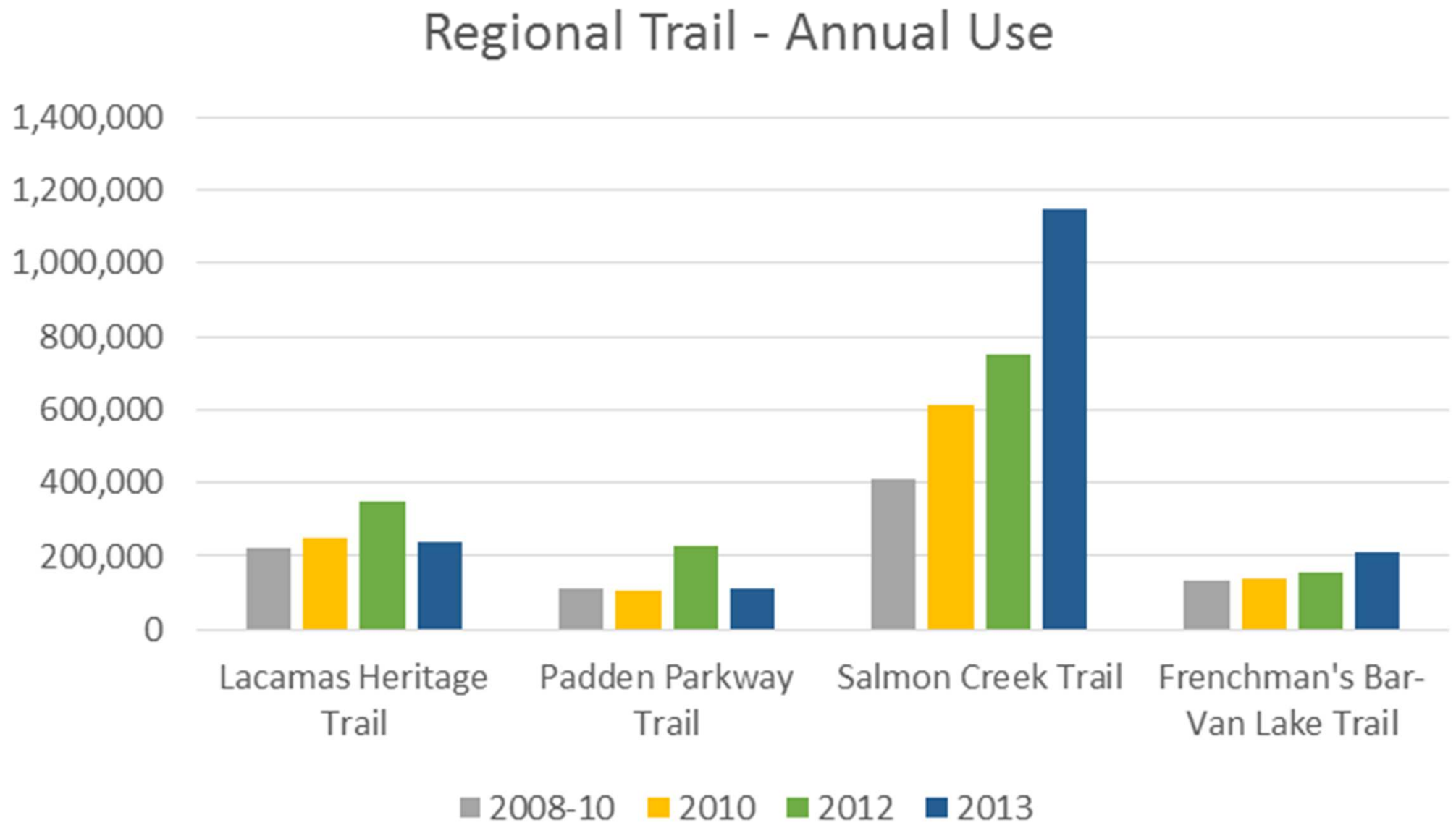
County population of approx. 435,500 would equate to a target of 435.5 miles of walking/jogging/biking trails.

Mileage listed in 2007 Plan = 46.3

Current mileage of existing trails = 51

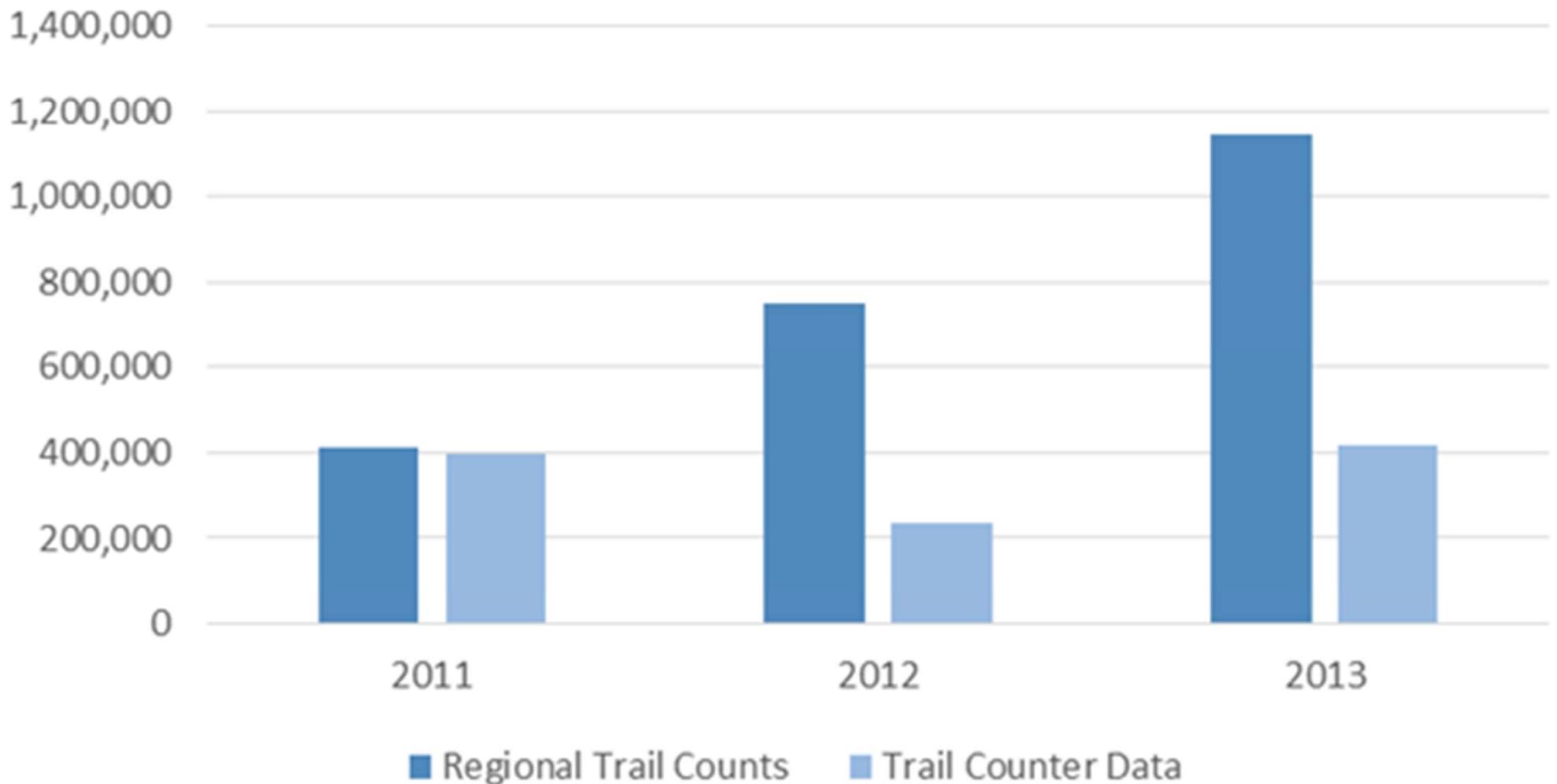
Proposed regional trails mileage = 333.9 miles (?)

Measuring Trail Use



Annual Counts vs. Counters

Trail Count Comparison: Salmon Creek Trail



Trail User Feedback

Regional trail user survey results:

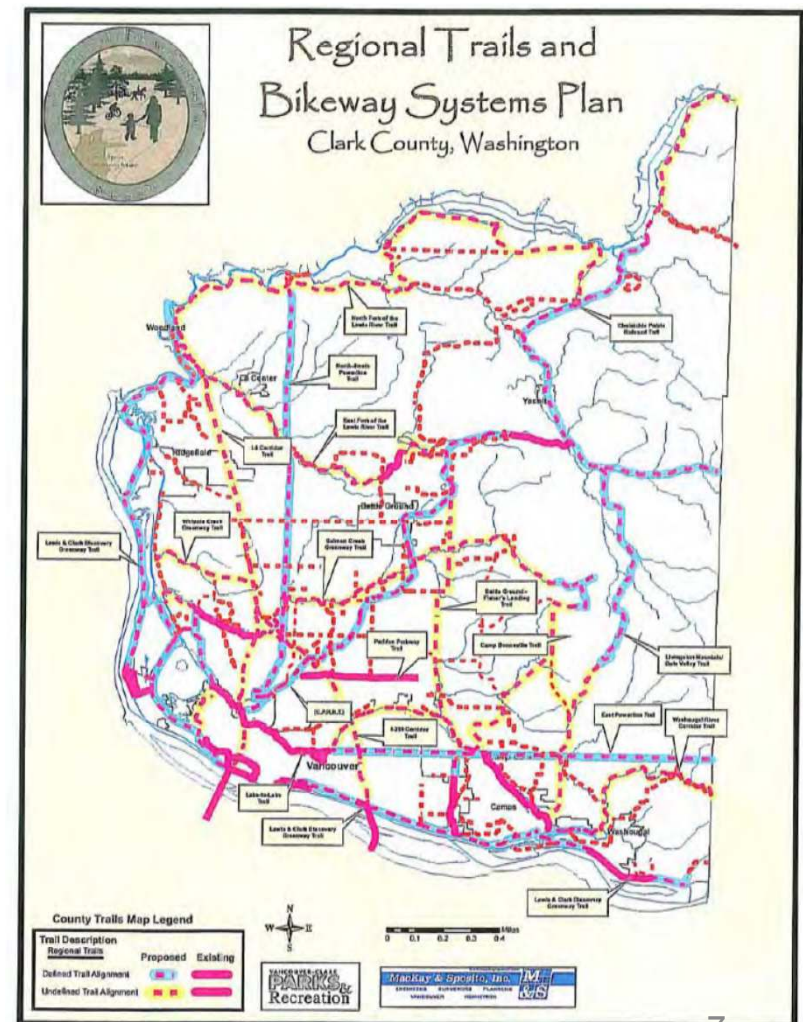
- Trails next to freeways and busy roadways draw significantly more bicyclists than pedestrians.
- Longer, better connected trails tend to have a higher proportion of bicyclists.
- Shorter, less connected trails tend to have a higher proportion of pedestrians.



Regional Trail Plans

A Vision of Connectivity

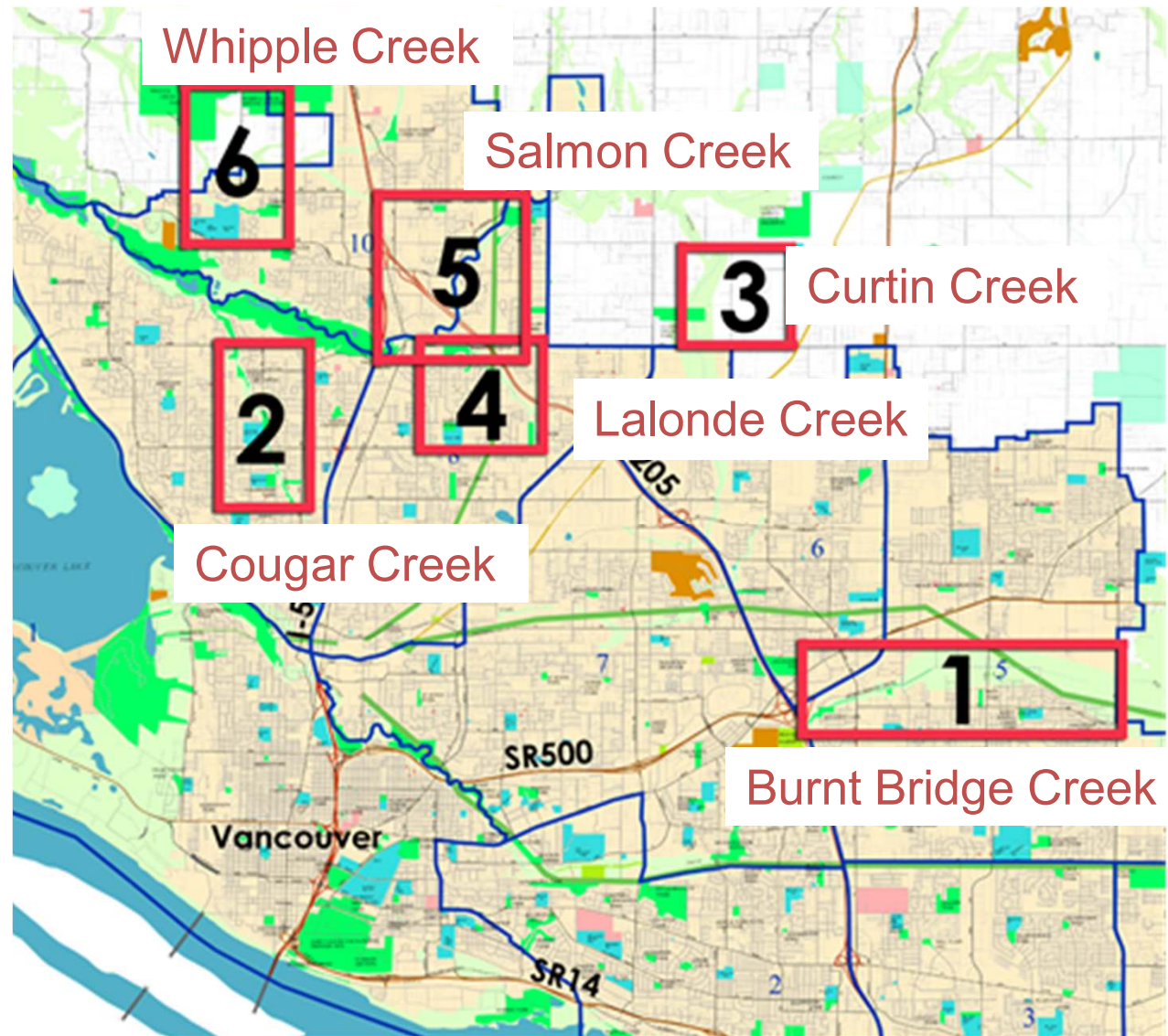
16 regional trails in 2006 plan
Dual purpose: recreation & transportation
240 miles of regional trails & bikeways



Greater Clark Park District Trails

Local trails to connect to regional trail system:

- Identified six trails totaling @11.5 miles
- Alignments to be acquired as part of GCPD program (7.5 miles promised)
- Volunteers to construct actual “primitive paths”
- Postponed due to economic downturn



GCPD Local Trail

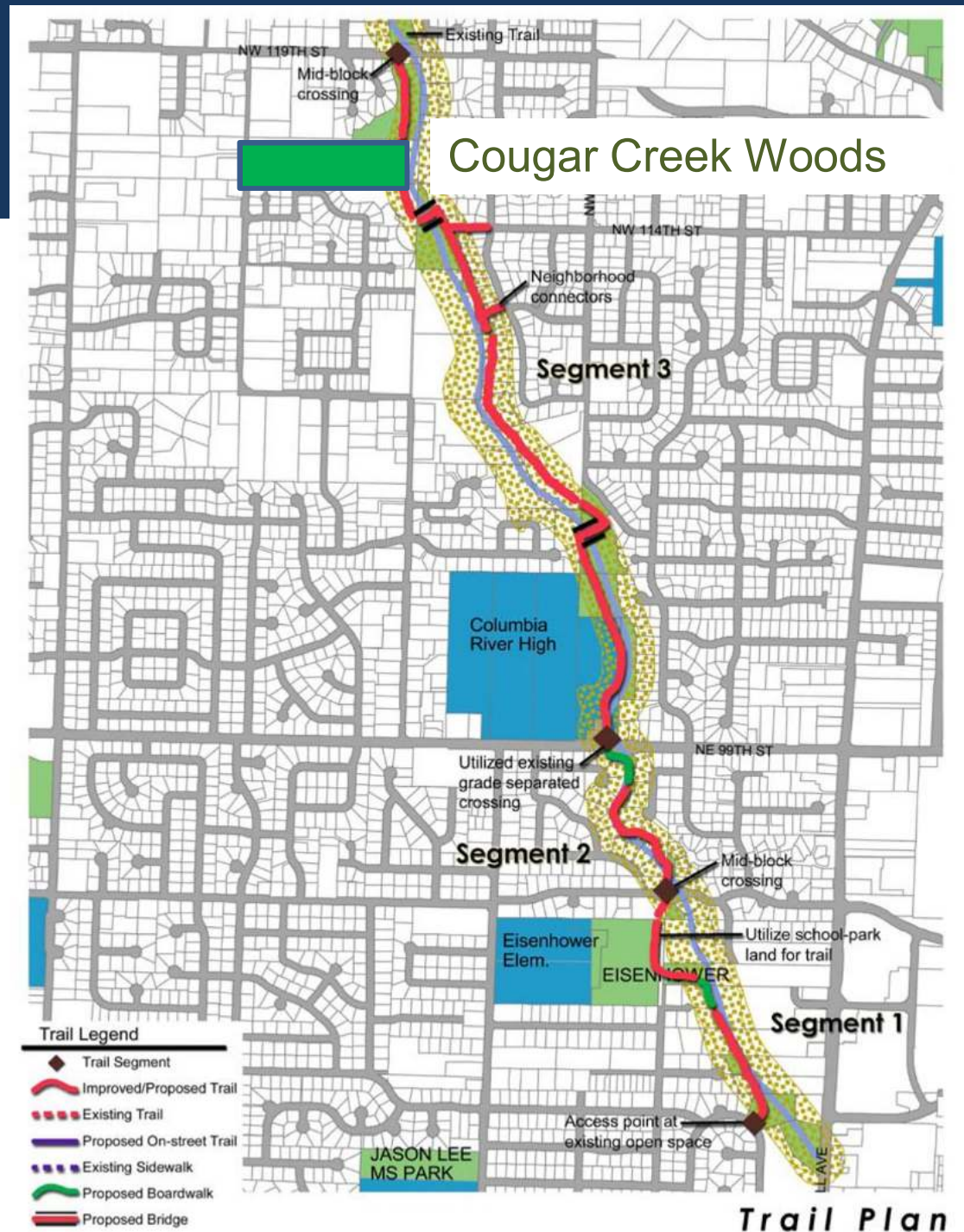
Cougar Creek Trail

Acquired 10-acre (future) park

Potential collaboration with Clark Regional Wastewater District (access needed to existing sewer line)

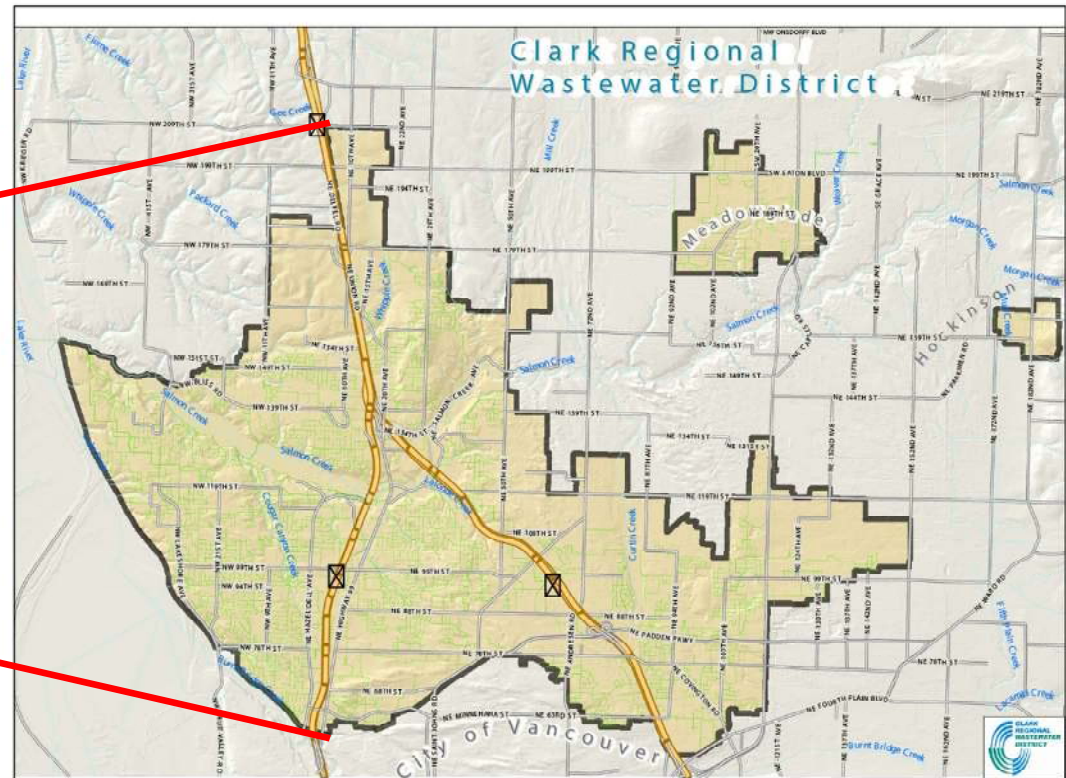
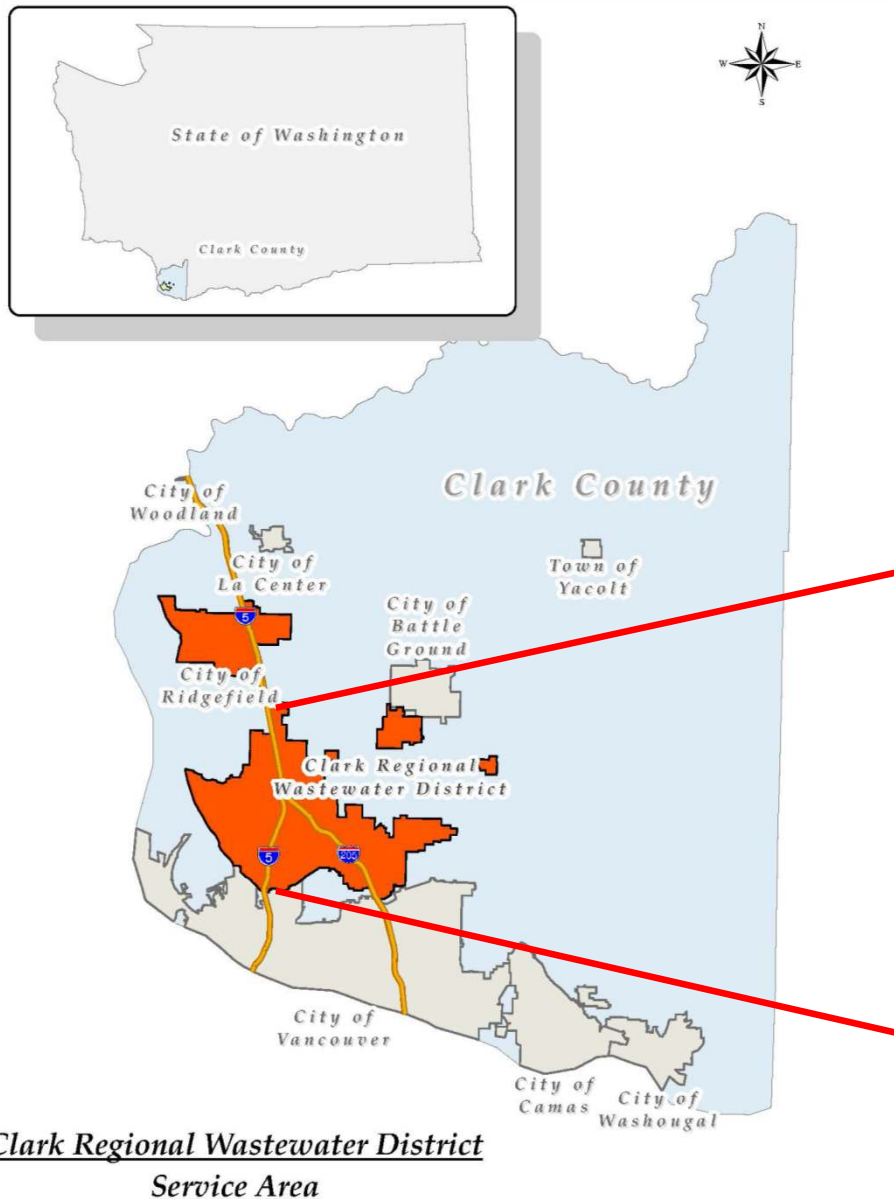
Gaps in public land ownership (acquisition needed)

WTA ready to provide volunteer trail building




Potential Trail Partnerships



Clark Regional Wastewater District:
their sewer lines are aligned along many
greenways and coincide with trail
locations.





2010 Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan



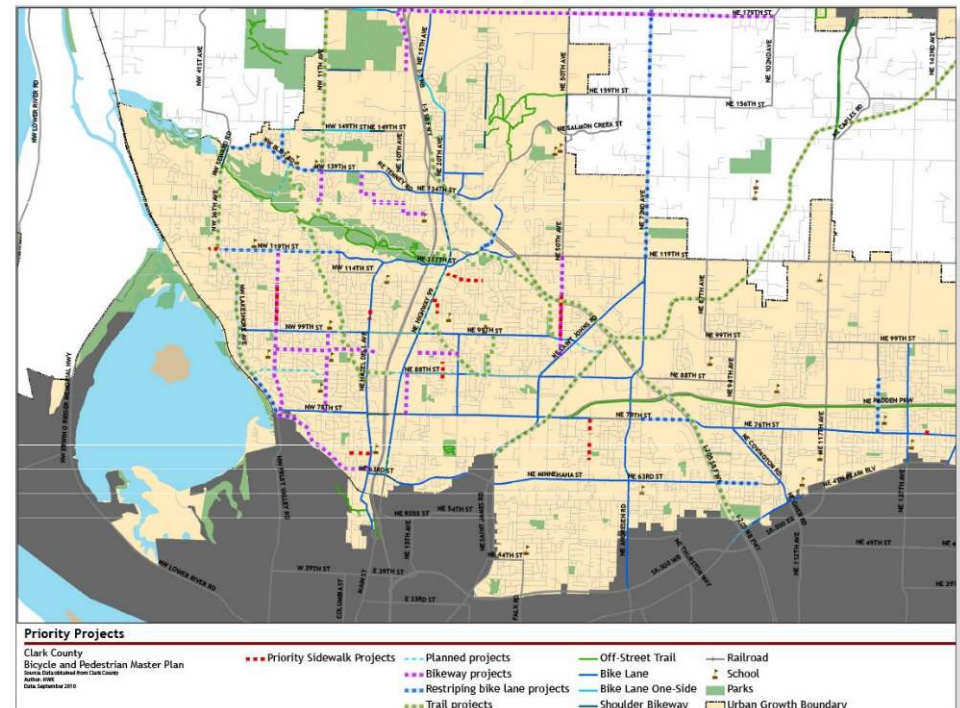
A framework for long-term bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements to enhance transportation mobility.



A connection between recreational and transportation projects to promote a seamless bicycle and pedestrian system.



Include on both the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the Park Plan project lists to enable the county to expand grant funding opportunities.



The top-tier projects focus on routes that provide the best connectivity benefits, improving nonmotorized routes to parks, schools, and community centers throughout Clark County.

Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Prioritized Projects

From the 2010 Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan:

Side Paths

- Salmon Creek Greenway Trail: the portion between HWY 99 and WSU including improvements to 119th St. and Salmon Creek Ave.
- NW 36th Ave: the portion between 78th St. and Bliss Rd.

Shared-use Paths

- Chelatchie Prairie Rail Trail: Vancouver to Battle Ground; Battle Ground to Yacolt; Yacolt to County Line.
- Salmon Creek Greenway Trail: section between Kline Pond and 119th St.
- North South Power-line Trail

Primitive Trails

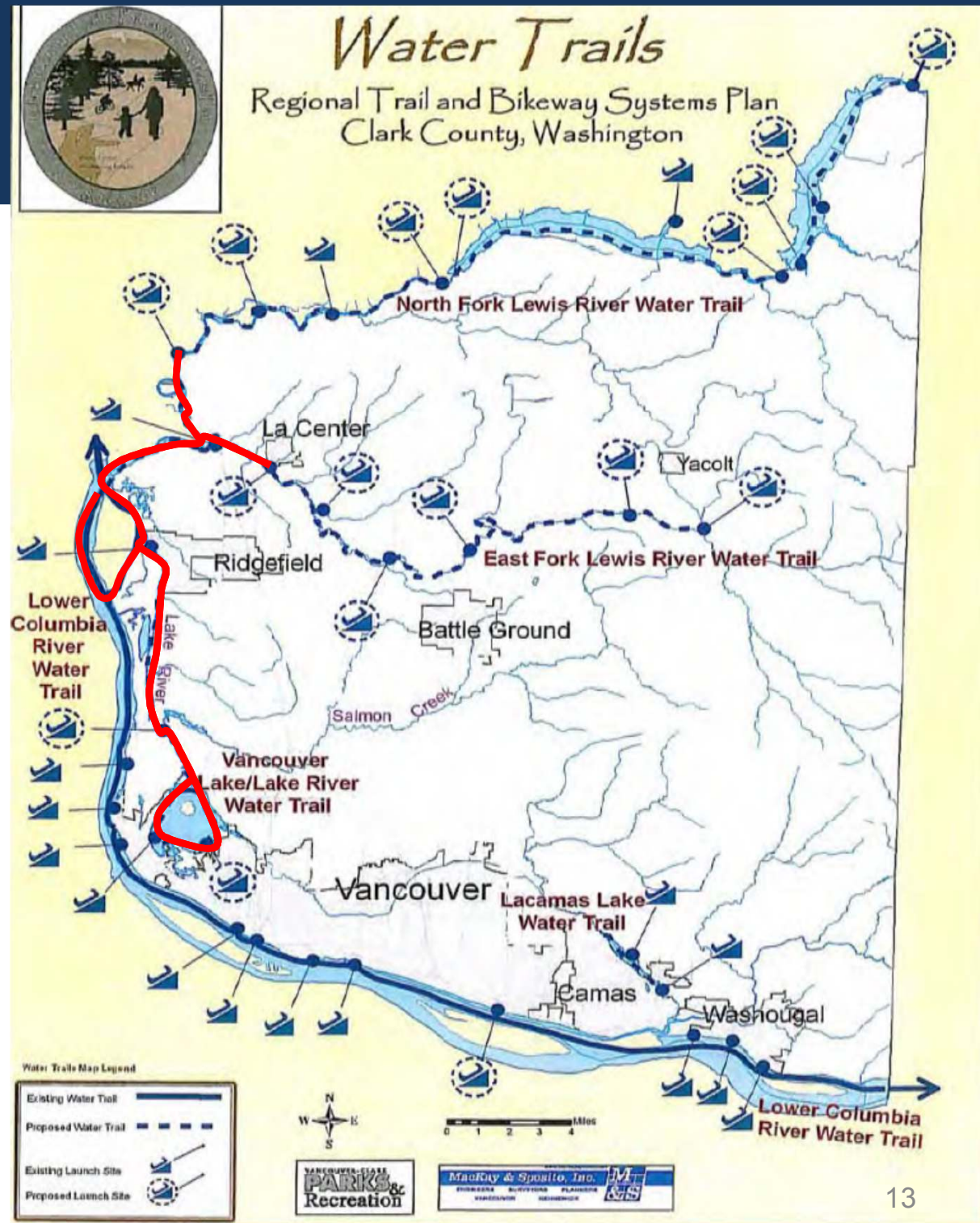
- Cougar Creek Trail
- LaLonde Creek Trail



Water Trails

Lewis River to Vancouver Lake Water Trail:

- Covers 32 miles of western edge of county
- Extends from Woodland & La Center into Vancouver Lake
- Sustainable form of outdoor recreation
- Enhanced if more access is improved



Connecting to the Water

Water Trail Plan Recommendations:

Improve public access sites

Develop water trail wayfinding sign system

Develop water trail paddling guide

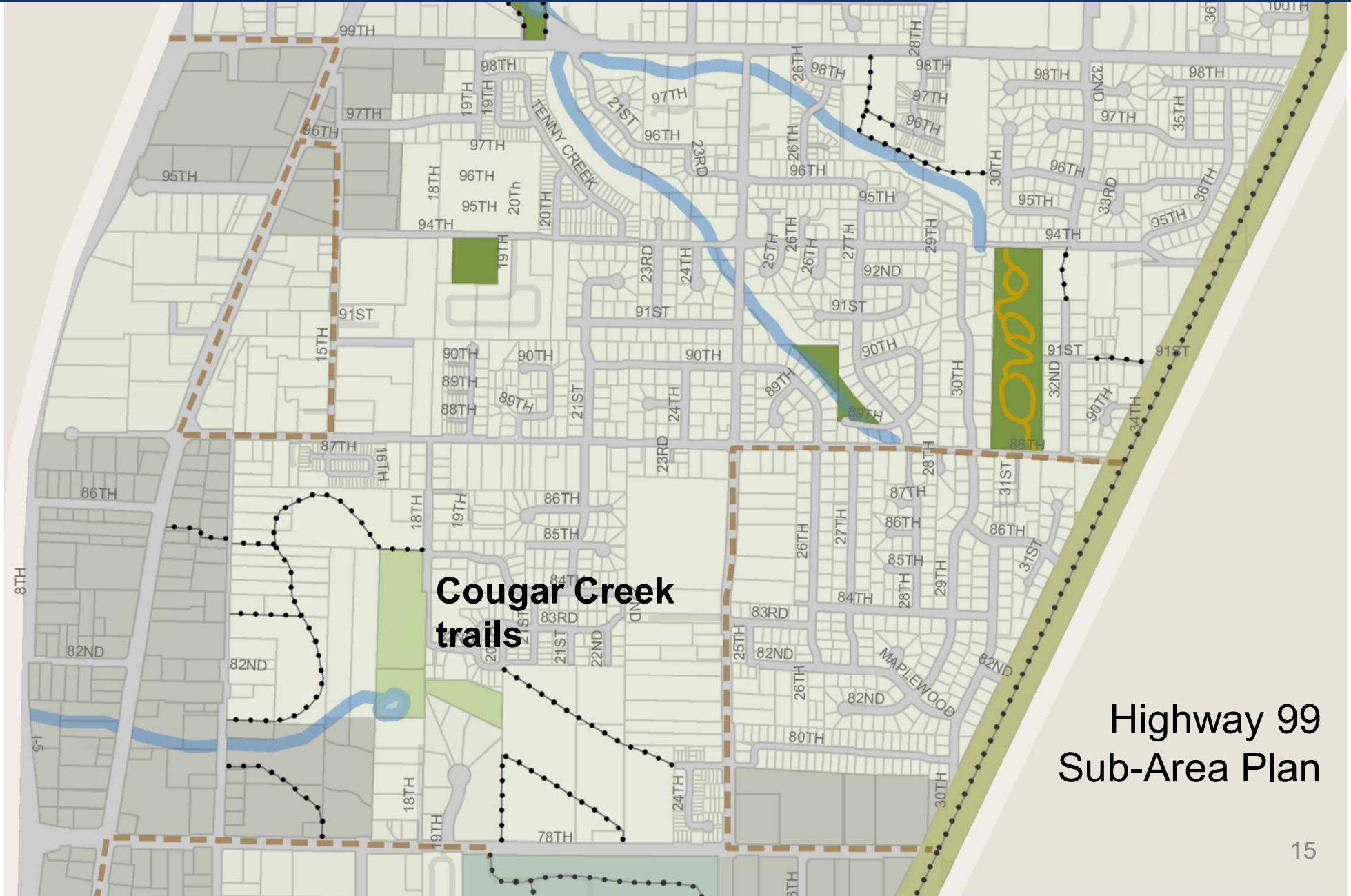
Develop mobile paddling guide app

Add launch site improvements to local capital facilities plans

Form a water trail coalition to promote water-based recreation



Local Connections – Sub-Area Plans



Future Trails: Closing the Gap

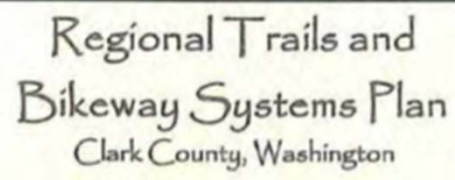
Plans provide direction for future implementation priorities

Past proposed projects:

- 2006 CFP listed Regional Trail Acquisition and Development projects = \$2.95M
- GCPD included 7 miles of new local trail alignments funded by \$3.5M
- Sub-Area Plans: local trails planning
- 2010 bike/ped master plan cites 7 priority projects, including side paths, shared-use paths and primitive trails.



A vertical collage of five images showing recreational activities in a park. The top image shows a person jogging on a gravel path through a forest. The second image shows a group of people cycling on a paved path. The third image shows two people horseback riding on a grassy field. The fourth image shows a person kayaking on a lake. The bottom image shows three people walking on a paved path.



At the current rate of built miles on trail projects, the system will be fully connected in 500 years.

If not, how much sooner should trails connect our community?